

Teffont Parish Council

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Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held in Teffont Village Hall

23rd May 2023 at 18:00

MEETING CONVENED: 18:00

Those present:

Parish Councillors: E. Worth (Chair). I. Johnson (Vice Chair) T. Deane. S.O'Donnell

Also in attendance: M. Honeybourne (Parish Clerk). There were 23 members of the public present and members of the Environment Agency

MEETING MINUTES

23.05.01

Resolution to receive apologies for absence.

No apology was received from Councillor Graham for her absence from the meeting.

23.05.02

Declarations of Interest/ Dispensations

A) Declarations: Councillor Johnson declared he is a victim of the recent flood and may have a material interest in agenda item 23.05.05/06

B) Dispensations: None required

23.05.03/4

Welcome from the Chair.

The Chair welcomed the public and the two members of the Environment agency. The Chair explained the format of the meeting as she will suspend standing orders to allow members of the public to participate fully in the meeting.

23.05.05

Environment Agency presentation.

The Chair introduced Michael Holme and Carrie Whittaker from the environment agency to the meeting.

Mr Holme explained the EA were unaware of the flood until the Parish Council contacted them and, therefore, they had a limited amount of time to investigate and pull the information together.

	<p>The purpose of the meeting is to gather as much information about the flood as possible from the public. Mr Holme had forms and information leaflets for those affected by the flood and told the meeting there would be an interactive element with flood maps for the public to draw on and give as much information as possible. He explained the EA will then update their information and flood plans. Mr Holme presented a slideshow explaining the different types of flooding that occurred from groundwater to flash flood water run off and the stream overflowing and some sewage overflow.</p> <p>Mr Holme explained the change from the drought we experienced last summer to the high levels of rainfall this winter. 200% more rainfall in the area and this has led to the high groundwater. There was a weather warning from the Met. Office on the 9th May but the Met office are unable to predict well enough in areas smaller than one square kilometer. Mr Holme shared Met office slides of the intense rainfall. Carrie Whittaker explained because the Met office can only predict in 1 sq. km areas, the EA were unaware of the storm on the 11th May directly over Teffont. Approximately 20mm of rain fell in 30mins. The ground was unable to absorb that much water. The data tells localised intense rainfall led to the flooding.</p> <p>Mr Holme produced local flood maps for the village and invited the public to come and fill in as much information as possible on the maps and fill in flood forms. There was a half hour breakout session to do this.</p>
23.05.06	<p>Questions and Statements from the Public.</p> <p>The Chair invited the public to ask the EA representatives questions. Photos and videos of the flooding were shared with the EA who were extremely grateful and acknowledged all the information shared in the meeting will help them to discuss any prevention measures, such as balancing ponds etc., that may help in future flooding. The EA were not able to recommend any prevention measures at this time. Comparisons to the 1999 flood were made and it was agreed the prevention measures taken by landowners had contributed to easing the pressure of the floodwater in the village.</p> <p>Village resident, David Wood was invited to speak about the balancing ponds at Manor Farm he thought they had worked well and prevented hundreds of litres of rainwater from adding to the flood.</p> <p>David Holmes (Managing Agent of Teffont Estate) was invited to speak; he reported that he'd done a site survey on Thursday afternoon with Jasper and they would work with the EA on recommendations.</p> <p>It was agreed the 11th May flood was a unique event, different from 1999, with different circumstances contributing to the flooding.</p> <p>Investigations will continue.</p> <p>Mr Holme concluded his presentation with some more slides on flood warnings and congratulated the village on having a flood warden and emergency plan. Mr Holme said schemes would be considered to see if there are any opportunities to prevent future flooding. The Chair requested Carrie Whittaker to undertake a flood survey of the village. The EA agreed. A date to be arranged.</p>
23.05.07	The Chair reinstated standing orders.
23.05.08	This agenda item was moved to the meeting of the 27 th June.
23.05.09	<p>Co-Option of new Parish Councillors</p> <p>The Chair invited Nick Blackford and Clarissa Bell to make statements why they wish to join Teffont Parish Councillors.</p> <p>The Chair proposed the Co-Option of Clarissa Bell and Nick Blackford to join the Parish Council.</p>

	<p>Proposed: EW Seconded: IJ Carried: Majority Abstention: TD</p> <p>RESOLVED: Teffont Parish Council voted by majority to co-opt Clarissa Bell and Nick Blackford as Councillors for Teffont Parish Council</p>
	<p>Standing Orders suspended.</p> <p>The Chair suspended standing orders to allow Councillor Deane to bring a motion for an Area Board Community Grant to be considered.</p> <p>Councillor Deane explained the Area Board gives grants to local communities for projects, subject to matching funds. The Area board grant closes on the 25th May. Councillor Deane reminded the meeting of the details of the recent flood on the 11th May.</p> <p>Councillor Deane proposed an application be submitted to the Area Board for a project involving the young people in the Community and Wiltshire Wildlife to clear the lower end of the stream at Holt Lane to assist in better flow of the stream. Councillor Deane's view it is a long term project of 4/5 years. Councillor Deane suggested applying for a maximum grant of £5k to be matched by the Area Board. Councillor Deane said the Council could decide how much they wished to apply for and money may be obtained from other sources. Councillor Deane suggested the project could be funded by using Teffont PC reserves. The Clerk reminded Councillor Deane of a large Highways project still to be funded from the reserves.</p> <p>The Chair asked Councillors to consider the proposal.</p> <p>Councillor O'Donnell felt TPC should wait until the Environment Agency have completed their investigations and submit an application when the next grants are available.</p> <p>Councillor Johnson was willing to submit an application but said finances and matching funds would be subject to availability. #</p> <p>The Chair reminded Councillor Deane that any works would be subject to landowner approval. The Chair stated there is another round of funding on the 15th August according to the newsletter from WC. The Chair supported an initial application but was emphatic this was subject to landowner approval.</p> <p>Councillor Bell stated the importance of the weed in the stream and the biodiversity of the stream should be considered before any works commence.</p> <p>The Chair proposed, in principle, Teffont Parish Council supports an application to investigate the funding opportunity but any application is subject to landowners approval.</p> <p>Proposed: SO Seconded: IJ Carried Unanimously</p> <p>Resolved. Council resolved to submit an initial application to the Area Board for a grant to support a project for the Community to improve the Stream flow in Teffont Evias. Application to be subject to matching funds available at the time and landowners approval.</p>
	<p>Standing orders reinstated.</p> <p>The Chair reinstated standing orders.</p>
23.05.10	<p>Meeting Closed. 19:55</p>
	<p>Items for the next Agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
	<p>Meeting Closed: 18:55</p>
	<p>Date of next meeting: 30th May 2023 Teffont Village Hall at 18:00</p>

	<p>Note: The Village Hall is open for 30 minutes prior to the start of any public meeting for questions from any resident.</p>
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